Chinese Invitation to Indian military officers to attend courses in Beijing

1695. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time China is inviting senior Indian military officers to attend courses at its National Defence University located in Beijing;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that this invitation to NDU course for the Indian officers is to be on a reciprocal basis;

(c) whether India has welcomed this move; and

(d) whether any defence officers have been selected to study in China?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Two officers, one from the Army and one from the Navy, are already undergoing a training course at Beijing. India has welcomed the move.

Abnormal delay in revision of lease of defence land

1696. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been abnormal delay on the part of Directorate of Defence Estates in the matter of revision of lease of defence land on various locations;

(b) whether there was a delay in revision of lease of land under use by Calcutta Turf Club, measuring over 56 acres even after determining the rent at Rs. 23.00 lakh per acre in 1994 and whether in 1998 the rent was arbitrarily reduced to Rs. 5.83 lakh per acre; and

(c) how much lease rent arrears have accumulated on account of Calcutta Turf Club on date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Instances of delay in revising/renewal of lease of Defence land have been noticed by the Government.

(b) A decision in regard to renewal of lease of land to Royal Calcutta Turf Club is yet to be taken and hence the question of arbitrary reduction of rent does not arise.

(c) The details of rent recoverable from the Club will be known only when the revised lease rent is decided. Once a decision is taken, the arrears will be recovered.